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EPA Takes Early Action to Address Contaminant Sources at Wilcox Oil Site in Creek Co., OK

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DALLAS – (XXX, 2018) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a plan to address tank waste and lead additive source contamination at the Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site in Bristow, Oklahoma. This action, taken early in the Superfund process, allows EPA to reduce risks to human health and the environment by completely removing ~~the oil tank waste which is the main source of contamination at the site~~these source materials.

On May 22, 2017, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt established the Superfund Task Force to provide recommendations for improving and expediting site cleanups and promoting redevelopment. On July 25, 2017, EPA's Superfund Task Force released its recommendations, which this proposed plan supports by taking interim and early actions to address source material to remove the threat to human health and eliminate the future migration of contaminants. This allows EPA to efficiently utilize resources and address the highest risks first.

All excavated and treated source material will be transported to an offsite permitted disposal facility. Contamination of the adjacent waterways, Sand Creek and the East Tributary, wetlands, stream and river bank areas will also be prevented by this action.

The lead contamination portion is considered an interim action because only source material in the lead additive area is being addressed in this proposal to a level that will be protective for on-site workers. Since the final risk assessment for lead has not been completed, the lead concentrations remaining after the lead interim action may not support residential use. Final site-wide remediation of lead and other threats posed by conditions at the site will be addressed in future actions.

The EPA consulted with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Cherokee Nation, and Sac and Fox Nation to coordinate review and discussion of this proposed action. A public meeting will be held to inform residents of the proposed cleanup strategy on Tuesday July 10, 2018, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Bristow Public Library, 111 West 7th Avenue, Bristow, Oklahoma, 74010.

On December 12, 2013, the site officially became a Federal Superfund Site when it was added to the NPL. The site, about 35 miles southwest of Tulsa, consists of the former Lorraine and Wilcox Refinery. The two companies operated refineries and associated facilities on the property from 1915 to 1965. The ~~125~~140-150-acre site includes remnants of the former oil refining operations and tank farms. Contaminants at the site include metals—mainly lead—and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, a group of chemicals found in crude oil.

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The EPA is proposing a clean-up strategy to address tank waste and lead additive source contamination at the Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site in Bristow, Oklahoma. (link)